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MEXICO.

Sanitary regulations in Mexico.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1897.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary of State, I have the honor to inclose herewith, for the information of the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, copy of an extract from the message of President Diaz, sent to the Congress of Mexico on the 1st instant, in regard to sanitary precautions taken by that Republic.

Respectfully, yours,

W. W. ROCKHILL,
Assistant Secretary of State.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.—Extract from message of President Diaz to the Mexican Congress, April 1, 1897.]

Measures taken to prevent disease.

Owing to the alarm occasioned by the occurrence at Culiacan, Manzanillo, and Acaapulco, of some cases of a disease which it was feared was yellow fever, a delegate of the board of health was instructed to make a study of this disease. His report was that it was nothing but an aggravated form of malaria. A similar report was made by another delegate of the board of health, and by a physician of this capital, with respect to a disease which appeared later on at Chilpancingo, and which was also suspected to be yellow fever.

It is gratifying to inform Congress that since the date of my last message not a single case of yellow fever has occurred in any part of the Republic.

The Executive has taken all the necessary measures to protect the capital from an invasion of smallpox, which, unfortunately, has prevailed in an epidemic form for some months past in the neighborhood of Puebla and Tlaxcala. With this end in view, special pains were taken to administer vaccination to all the inhabitants of the federal district. The soldiers composing the garrison were all ordered to be vaccinated, and foreign residents were urged to be vaccinated or revaccinated without loss of time.

In the period of twenty-four years and seven months comprised between the 1st of June, 1872, and December 31, 1896, vaccination has been administered in the offices of the board of health at this capital to 376,050 persons. As a proof of the beneficial effects of this preventive, I may state that the mortality in this city from smallpox last year amounted only to 76 persons, chiefly adults, and most of them foreigners who had neglected to be vaccinated.

Notwithstanding that British India is far removed from this country and that there are no direct relations between the countries, the Executive has taken care to keep informed as to the progress of the bubonic plague there, in order, if necessary, to take steps to prevent the remote chance of the disease spreading to this country.

On previous occasions I have informed the Chamber of the part taken by members of the board of health and by Mexican physicians in general in the labors of the American Association of Public Health. In the month of September last the annual sessions of the association in question were held in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., and Mexico was represented by 23 physicians, one of whom, the president of the board of health, was honored with the distinction of presiding at the sessions.

It is a pleasure to me to inform you that work has been commenced on the sanitation of the capital. The first large receptacle for the discharge of the proposed sewerage system is already under construction and work is soon to be undertaken on the erection of the pumps for flushing the sewers.

STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA—*Brisbane*.—Month of January, 1897. Estimated population, 56,075. Total deaths, 71, including phthisis pulmonalis, 10; enteric fever, 2; diphtheria, 1, and whooping cough, 1.

BERMUDA.—Two weeks ended April 2, 1897. Estimated population, 15,013. Total deaths, 3. No deaths from contagious diseases.

BRAZIL—*Ceara*.—Month of January, 1897. Estimated population, 44,000. Total deaths, 135, including 1 from whooping cough.

Month of February, 1897. Total deaths, 151. No deaths reported from contagious diseases.

CANADA—*Ontario—Hamilton*.—Month of March, 1897. Estimated population, 50,000. Total deaths, 66, including phthisis pulmonalis, 4, and scarlet fever, 1.

CHILE—*Antofagasta*.—Month of February, 1897. Estimated population, 14,000. Total deaths, 36, including 3 from phthisis pulmonalis.

FRANCE—*Nice*.—Month of February, 1897. Estimated population, 108,227. Total deaths, 231, including phthisis pulmonalis, 15; measles, 7, and whooping cough, 2.

St. Etienne.—Two weeks ended March 20, 1897. Estimated population, 135,784. Total deaths, 113, including diphtheria, 1, and whooping cough, 5.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales*.—The deaths registered in 33 great towns of England and Wales during the week ended March 27 correspond to an annual rate of 18.7 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 10,992,524. The highest rate was recorded in Salford, viz, 24.2, and the lowest in Croydon, viz, 12.9 a thousand.

London.—One thousand five hundred and thirty-four deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 16; scarlet fever, 13; diphtheria, 43; whooping cough, 43; enteric fever, 12, and diarrhea and dysentery, 13. The deaths from all causes correspond to an annual rate of 17.9 a thousand. In greater London 1,968 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 16.3 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included 9 from measles, 5 from scarlet fever, 11 from diphtheria, and 12 from whooping cough.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered during the week ended March 27 in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland was 30.1 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Queenstown, viz, 11.5, and the highest in Armagh, viz, 56.1 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 242 deaths were registered, including smallpox, 1, scarlet fever, 1; whooping cough, 19; 1 from typhus fever, 37 from measles, and 1 from diphtheria.

Scotland.—The deaths registered in 8 principal towns during the week ended March 27 correspond to an annual rate of 22.6 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,549,907. The lowest mortality was recorded in Greenock, viz, 16.1, and the highest in Perth, viz, 30.7 a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 673, including scarlet fever, 4; diphtheria, 3; measles, 36, and whooping cough, 33.

NOVA SCOTIA—*Windsor*.—Month of March, 1897. Estimated population, 3,000. Total deaths, 4, including 1 from phthisis pulmonalis.